



Montgomery County Council

For Immediate Release

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COUNCIL BANS WATER & SEWER HOOK-UPS TO PROTECT COUNTY AGRICULTURAL RESERVE FROM DEVELOPMENT

The Montgomery County Council unanimously approved legislation today that would ban water and sewer hook-ups in rural density transfer – or RDT – zones, all of which are located in the County’s 93,000-acre Agricultural Reserve, in order to protect that area from intense development and to protect its use as farmland and open space.

“This new policy says ‘yes’ to preserving our Ag Reserve and ‘no’ to more intense development,” said Council President Tom Perez. “This prohibition of public water and sewer hook-ups for Private Institutional Facilities (PIFs) in the Agricultural Reserve comes as we celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Reserve. Before, under our case-by-case way of determining which PIF got water and sewer, the risk was that the Reserve would winnow away under a thousand cuts.”

The Council did consider several requests for facilities to be “grandfathered in” under the new policy, but chose to reject them, including, on a 6-2 vote, the application of Bethel World Outreach Church, which sought to develop a large facility on Brink Road in the Goshen area. The Council did approve applications outside the RDT zones for the People’s Baptist Church of Cloverly and the Church of the Redeemer, east of Montgomery Village.

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